

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A gemstone having a micro-discrete indicia formed thereon wherein said micro-discrete indicia image was formed using near-field optics.

2. A gemstone according to claim 2 wherein said near-field optics produces said micro-discrete indicia by ablation of an image on the surface of said gemstone.

3. A gemstone according to claim 2 wherein said micro-discrete indicia is produced using color center production techniques.

4. A method according to claim 2 wherein in said micro-discrete indicia is provided at a predetermined coordinates on said gemstone.

5. A gemstone according to claim 2 wherein said micro-discrete indicia provides information with regard to said gemstone.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein said information comprises any of the following:

size, type, manufacturer, retailer, owner, producer, country of origin, mine etc.